

CPYRGHT

# Sweden Attacks Breach in Security

By the Associated Press

## Stockholm

Sweden's armed forces have embarked on a crash program to close the defense gap caused by the betrayal of military secrets to the Soviet Union by Air Force Col. Stig Erik Wennerstrom.

There is an atmosphere of almost wartime urgency at the Defense Ministry.

Lights burn far into the night as Army, Navy, and Air Force officers grapple with the task of repairing the probable loss of the nation's entire defense strategy to the Soviets.

Officers have been recalled from vacation, and redeployment of Army, Navy, and Air Force units may already be under way.

Security services are working around the clock to check on other possible leaks in the military establishment or the government.

Everyone—the government, opposition parties, defense staffs, and the newspapers—agrees that Colonel Wenner-

strom badly compromised Sweden. The tall, suave airman-diplomat has confessed that he fed military secrets to the Soviets for 15 years.

## NATO Secrets, Too

And during that period he had access to Sweden's entire defense strategy. Defense sites and strengths? Military codes? Key mobilization and communication plans? Colonel Wennerstrom knew all about these and more.

He knew a lot about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's defense plans and weapons. He visited NATO military installations. He was in frequent contact with Danish and Norwegian military men. He was friendly with many top Western diplomats here.

The armed forces are reported to be acting on the assumption that Colonel Wennerstrom "gave away Sweden" and that the Soviets now know all about this northern nation's plans to repel a possible Soviet attack.

## Costly Task Faced

Stockholm's influential Expressen—the largest newspaper in Scandinavia—referred to "a time of acute crisis for our defense" and said editorially:

"The Wennerstrom spying has in essential parts knocked out the Swedish defense. About this all reports agree. Hectic measures are being taken to repair, if possible, the damage caused."

The armed forces face an immensely complicated and costly task. Fortifications, headquarters, and battle stations, hangars, ship tunnels, repair shops, and storage depots have been built into granite accommodations at top-secret locations. Newspapers have reported there are 800 of these.

Two deep tunnels have been carved out of a mountain to accommodate destroyers, submarines, and other naval units. Plans have called for the entire Navy to be provided with tunnels. These installations cannot be moved even though their locations may now be precisely pinpointed by the Soviets. More tunnels be built?

## Fuel Storage Crucial

Sweden's Royal Air Force has 1,000 all-jet, first-line planes (said by the Swedes to be the

fourth largest in the world after the United States Air Force, the Soviet Air Force, and the British Royal Air Force).

The Air Force now must consider whether a major redeployment to new bases underground and on the surface is needed to maintain its combat effectiveness.

For its oil supplies Sweden depends entirely on imports. The safe storage of fuels is essential for its military preparedness.

Oil and gasoline are stored in vast underground tanks in rock chambers and abandoned mines. Hidden pipelines link these to the berthing places of tankers and tank cars. It will take years and vast sums of money to relocate these.

## Tax Rise Forecast

Military expenditures now take about one-fifth of Sweden's national budget. According to some estimates, this nation now must spend the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars more, and in a hurry, to repair the damage of the loss of defense secrets through Colonel Wennerstrom.

Newspapers forecast taxes will be substantially increased to pay the bill.

Informed sources say Sweden probably will face vastly increased military research costs as a result of the Wennerstrom case.

Although Sweden is neutral and not a member of NATO, the Western powers for some time have quietly passed on to the Swedish armed forces important technical data on defense matters.

They have also sold weap-

ons to Sweden. The view here is that the West probably will halt such aid in view of uncertainty about Sweden's security system.

## Morale Drop Seen

Military sources say the armed forces also face a morale problem in the ranks in the wake of the Wennerstrom disclosures.

"There is bound to be a lowered morale as a result of the feeling that the Russians now have comprehensive information on our defense plans," one observer commented.

For Swedish security services, Colonel Wennerstrom caused two pressing problems: to tighten up their own organization and to determine if Colonel Wennerstrom had any accomplices.

Many Swedes are asking: "If Wennerstrom could work for the Soviets so long without any suspicion by our security services then how many others are doing the same in Sweden?"